

The Watauga Democrat.

ISSUED EVERY THURSDAY

ONLY NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN WATAUGA COUNTY

ESTABLISHED IN 1888

VOLUME XXXIII

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY MARCH 9, 1922

NUMBER 19

THE WEEK'S EVENTS

IMPORTANT NEWS OF STATE, NATION AND THE WORLD BRIEFLY TOLD

ROUND ABOUT THE WORLD

A Condensed Record Of Happenings Of Interest From All Points Of The World

Foreign

Responsibility for the world war was placed exclusively on German shoulders by Philip Scheidemann, former German chancellor, in a lecture before the students' association at Copenhagen, recently.

The conferences between the delegates of the Irish provisional government with Winston Spencer Churchill, British colonial secretary; Sir Greenwood, chief secretary for Ireland, and Sir Lamington Worthington-Evans, secretary for war, are reported to be proceeding smoothly.

Henri Desire Landru, "Bluebeard of Gamaia," convicted of the murder of ten women and one youth, protesting his innocence to the last, gave his life in exchange for the eleven he was convicted of having taken. The execution was at Versailles, France.

Agreement to a postponement of the Genoa economic conference until April 30 has been reached by Premier Poincare of France and Prime Minister Lloyd George of Great Britain at a conference at Boulogne. The conference originally was called to meet on March 8.

Pope Pius announced the appointment of Monsignor John J. Swint, of Weston, W. Va., as auxiliary bishop of the diocese of Wheeling, W. Va.

The Genoa conference will open March 15 or 23 instead of March 8, as originally planned. It is announced that Rome, Italy, because arrangements have not yet been completed.

Lady Feodora Gleichen, unmarried daughter of the late Admiral Prince Victor of Hohenlohe-Langenburg, died recently in London.

It is stated in dispatches emanating from Dublin that the Irish factions have come to an agreement whereby it is hoped that peace will be established.

Several persons were wounded at Belfast in a fresh outbreak of firing on the East Side, said to have resulted from a vendetta against saloon keepers of that section having Sinn Fein sympathies. Military guards were stationed at all the saloons in York Street District.

Nearly 12,000 miners in the Penarroya district went on strike recently in consequence of an announcement by their employers that they intended to reduce the miners' wages 25 per cent. The strikers' attitude so far is quiet but they express determination not to return to work, declaring it is impossible to live on diminished wages while every article of consumption is increasing in price on account of the new customs duties, says a dispatch from Madrid, Spain.

Peter Veregin, head of the Russia religious sect known as the Buckhobors recently confirmed reports that he had suggested a plan whereby the children of the colony under ten years of age, together with the aged and infirm, be drowned as a protest against alleged exorbitant taxation. Once rid of those unable to travel, Veregin proposed that his followers abandon their farms and wander over the country, preaching the coming of Christ and living as the "vagrant working class."

Washington

The Supreme court has upheld a decision of the Oregon courts giving the government a judgment of \$18,204.84 against Willard N. Jones, who had a fraudulent scheme of putting old soldiers on homestead sites in Oregon and then binding them up in contracts under which the land would ultimately fall to him.

A movement to establish a prohibition bureau as a separate government agency distinct from any of the departments was understood to be gaining favor in official circles. Legislation to the end, it was said, might be introduced in congress in connection with the consideration of the proposed scheme for the reorganization of the administrative departments of the government.

Consideration was continued by both the war department and the house military on the question of disposing of the government's power and nitrate projects at Muscle Shoals, Ala., to private enterprises or completion and operation.

A resolution designed to bring about the recall from England of Ambassador Harvey was introduced by Representative Ryan, republican, New York. The measure proposes a congressional investigation of statements made by

the ambassador while abroad.

Secretary of Labor Davis announces that he has under way the action contemplated by President Harding to bring about a conference between the bituminous coal operators and mine workers prior to April 1.

Waterways transportation problems extending from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic and to the Gulf of Mexico will occupy the attention of five important waterways organizations which will hold sessions here. An unusual degree of interest is expected to attend a joint debate on the St. Lawrence project.

The hearing on the Ford proposal for Muscle Shoals, Ala., government property has ended, and consideration of other propositions will now be taken up.

Thomas W. Martin, president of the Alabama Power company, told the house military committee that his company had made a thorough study of power markets within a radius of 400 miles of Muscle Shoals, Ala., and that this company was sure that a hydro-electric power sufficient to industrialize a territory 800 miles in diameter could be generated.

The Supreme court, in a decision rendered by Justice Brandeis, has declared woman suffrage in the United States to be constitutional.

The Supreme court has held invalid the Arkansas state law prohibiting corporations doing business in that state from removing cases from state to federal courts.

Francis I. Jones, director general of the United States employment service of the department of labor, has been advised that employment agencies are exploiting the people and preying upon the unemployed with prospective operations at the Muscle Shoals, Ala., power and nitrate projects.

The supremacy of the interstate commerce commission over state utilities commissions and similar state bodies in matters pertaining to the regulation of railroads has been established by the decision of the United States Supreme court in the Wisconsin rate case. The case was over the higher rates put into effect in Wisconsin under act of the state legislature of 1920.

The postoffice department announces that the marine mail guards will be replaced by a specially recruited force of men from the department, and is already in active operation.

The senate foreign relations committee, by a vote of 10 to 3, has ordered favorably reported the four-power Pacific treaty, together with its supplements and a reservation and the naval limitation and submarine treaties.

Domestic

Mrs. John Rupp recently told the Los Angeles police that she "kept house" for the six drug peddlers who are said to have been implicated in the murder of William Desmond Taylor, film director. The police attach much importance to her story, and say that if her story is true, the murder mystery is solved.

William F. Wendt, Los Angeles millionaire, formerly known as the "iron king" of Buffalo, N. Y., where the courts recently held him incompetent, has been found to be "mentally sick" at a session of the Los Angeles county lunacy commission, and paroled to Mrs. Jean McCracken, a court attaché. It is planned to place him in a sanitarium.

The anthracite operators announced in Philadelphia recently that they have agreed to meet representatives of the United Mine Workers in joint conference in New York March 15 to negotiate a new wage agreement.

Medical and psychological experts have been watching Harvey W. Church, double Chicago slayer sentenced to hang March 2, who has been endeavoring to cheat the gallows by starving himself, and declare that he has succeeded in committing mental suicide.

Miss Dorothy Nichols, 18 years old a society girl of Washington Heights New York City, awoke with a scream when an intruder struck her a heavy blow on the head. The assailant escaped. Miss Nichols had just returned from a masquerade ball.

The body of Miss Eleanor Dunning, 40 years old, of Liberty, N. Y., was found on the roof of the engine room in the rear of the Hotel Aberdeen in West Thirty-fourth street, New York City, beneath the window of a room on the eighth floor which she occupied. A check payable to cash for \$350, jewelry estimated to be worth several thousand dollars and \$150 in cash was found in the room.

Augusta, Ga., was recently threatened with another big fire. The Montgomery building, in the very heart of the business district, in some way, caught fire, but was gotten under control—but not until the building was practically demolished.

The special grand jury investigating the Lexington hotel (Richmond, Va.) fire, February 7, found that the own-

ers had been too prodigious in the use of the word "new" instead of fixing the hostelry for the safety of the lives of the guests and employees.

Theodore Roosevelt would give the country one of his broad smiles if he were alive. Mr. and Mrs. William Poet of Brownsville, Ky., have been married six years, in which time, four sets of twins and one set of quadruplets have come to bless their home—twelve in all.

Alfred D. Lindsay, former stock broker, wanted in New York City for bilking society women of more than a million dollars, has been arrested. New York police authorities are informed, at Overbrook, Pa.

Representatives of the manufacturers and of both unions involved in the strike in cotton mills in Rhode Island rejected the proposition of the state board of mediation and conciliation that the wage controversy be submitted to Judge J. Jerome Hahn chairman of the board, as sole arbiter.

Lieut. Clifford E. Smythe of Chicago wrote his father after the first trip of the Roma in Washington, that it would be criminal to attempt to fly the dirigible unless some improvements were made on the vessel.

EXTENSIVE ROAD BUILDING

Thirty-two Miles of State Highways Have Been Completed in Lenoir County.

Kinston.—The road-building program of Lenoir county is "one of the most extensive ever entered into by any individual county in this State, and probably has rarely been exceeded in the whole country," according to a statement issued here by the county highway commission from its engineer, giving details of the construction work, which was made public. "All of the roads will be turned over to State immediately upon their completion," it was stated.

The engineer's report said 10 and six-tenths miles of the system had been completed at the last report, made March 19, 1921. "Today 42 4-10 miles of pavement have been completed and 16 1-2 miles of concrete base laid ahead, all of which is open to the public so that now, during the winter months, when numerous roads in other sections are in an almost impassable condition due to the storms and heavy rains, Lenoir county has over 58 miles of hard-surface on which the public can travel with comfort and convenience to almost any part of the county.

"On the Central Highway, which is being supervised by the state highway commission, the portion through LaGrange from Kinston to the Wayne county line, 15 3-100 miles long, has been completed; while on the portion from Kinston to the Craven county line, 7 88-100 miles long, all of the concrete foundation has been laid and it is anticipated that the asphalt surface will be completed within the next 30 days."

Work was stated to have progressed satisfactorily on every main road out of Kinston, and several to be nearly completed.

"Two complete asphalt plants are in operation." The work of the contractors was declared to be "very satisfactory." The indications "are that by mid summer the principal highways will be completed, thereby making Lenoir county one of the best paved counties in the United States."

State Takes Over Turnpikes.

Lenoir.—The final action of the stockholders of the Yonahlossee Turnpike Company in accepting a proposition of the state highway commission was taken here.

According to T. B. Lenoir, president of the turnpike company, the state highway commission will spend \$8,000 a year on the Yonahlossee road at a point about three miles beyond Blowing Rock to Lenoir City. It is very likely, Mr. Lenoir says, that the state will be able to begin work on this road within a few days or just as soon as they can organize a maintenance force. The turnpike company is to receive \$1 for the road on its 99-year lease.

Fields of Fine Clay.

Hämet.—The finest clay field for crockery and for fire-brick yet discovered in North Carolina lies between here and Rockingham, according to a statement made in the office of the chamber of commerce by Field Surveyor Mooney, assistant of Dr. Joseph Hyde Pratt, geologist, of the University of North Carolina. There is, declared Mr. Mooney, enough clay in this field to give a \$100,000 crockery plant employment for the next fifty years. He said the clay was white clay, very adaptable to the manufacture of crockery, an industry carried on extensively in Ohio, and in St. Louis, Mo., largely of North Carolina clay.

ENGSTRUM OFFER BEFORE COMMITTEE

GOETHALS AND ENGSTRUM JOIN HANDS TO DEVELOP MUSCLE SHOALS PLANTS.

BUTLER TELLS HOUSE PLANS

Panama Canal Builder to Take Personal Charge of Work if Engstrum Wins Out.

Washington.—George W. Goethals, former major general in the army and builder of the Panama Canal, will take charge of the development of the government's war-made projects at Muscle Shoals, Ala., in the event the offer of Frederick E. Engstrum, North Carolina shipbuilder and engineer, for lease and completion of the Alabama properties, is accepted by congress, it was announced.

Mr. Goethals already has agreed, it was added, to accept the task of completing the great dam at Muscle Shoals and other projects for Mr. Engstrum.

The announcement of the agreement between Mr. Engstrum and Mr. Goethals was made by Marion Butler, former senator from North Carolina, in testimony given the house military committee on the proposal which was under consideration as a competitor to those submitted by Henry Ford and the Alabama Power company.

The committee devoted both sessions to an investigation of the Engstrum offer, receiving Mr. Engstrum first for a brief introduction of his bid and later examining Mr. Butler, who appeared as legal adviser for the North Carolinian. Mr. Butler said nitrate and fertilizer production, viewed in the sense of their relation to the national defense, was the prime object of the offer he spoke for, although hydro-electric development would not be neglected.

While the former senator did not refer to the Ford offer by name, he argued strongly against congressional action which would permit the principal waterpower project of the South to be controlled by a private concern.

Nitrate and fertilizer production at the shoals, Mr. Butler said, could be made a national asset, permitting cheap soil foods for the farmers and reduced prices of foodstuffs for the consumers.

In reply to questions by Representative Stoll, South Carolina, Mr. Butler said the corporation to be created under the Engstrum plan "would capitalize itself" until it got to be a "going concern" and was willing to offer a surety bond of any size the government suggested to assure the proper execution of the offer. Both Mr. Butler and Mr. Engstrum would be directors of the corporation, it was stated, in addition to two others who would be designated by the secretaries of war and agriculture.

Thirteen Killed in Wreck.

Cleveland, Ohio.—Thirteen persons were killed and approximately a dozen injured, four perhaps fatally, when New York Central express train No. 600, eastbound, crashed into a bus at the St. Clair street crossing in Painesville. Only five of the dead were identified at a late hour. All are believed to have been residents of Painesville and Fairport, between which cities the bus operated.

Dead and dying were hurled along the railroad right-of-way for several hundred feet. Bodies of three of the victims were found lodged on the locomotive pilot when the train was brought to a stop from a 60-mile an hour pace, 50 yards from the scene of the accident.

Prisoners Yelled While Fire Raged.

Fort Madison, Iowa.—Prisoners of the Iowa state penitentiary here heated upon the bars of their cells and yelled for several hours when fire caused damages estimated at \$250,000 to several buildings within the prison walls. Cries of "there goes your bid prison," and "Let us out," were yelled to the guards who tried to quiet them.

Hungary Will Sell Land.

Budapest.—The Hungarian government will soon have several thousand acres of land to sell and contemplates setting up a bureau in America, where Hungarians will be able to purchase farms before sailing home.

Joseph Szassy, who was sent to the United States recently to study the situation, says that his countrymen in America number about 500,000, that their savings average about \$400 to \$500 each and that many of them would like to return to Hungary if they were able to buy land.

FURTHER CUT IN ARMY PREDICTED

THE HOUSE SUB-COMMITTEE PROPOSES FURTHER SLASHING OF BUDGET.

ARMY CIRCLES ARE WORRIED

Would Reduce Enlisted Strength to 115,000 Men and Officers to Eleven Thousand.

Washington.—At least \$50,000,000 and possibly \$60,000,000 will be slashed from the budget estimate for the war department by the house appropriations sub-committee which is framing the army appropriation bill for the fiscal year beginning July 1, next, members of the sub-committee predicted.

The measure, they added, not only will provide that the enlisted strength of the army be reduced from its present strength of 137,000 to 115,000 men on July 1, but that the number of officers be limited to 11,000 as compared with the present strength of 12,000 on the active list.

War department estimates were revised and pared down by the budget bureau to approximately \$363,000,000 for the coming fiscal year, of this amount \$293,000,000 being requested for the army and the rest for non-military work, such as improvements to rivers and harbors.

Concern was expressed in army circles over the prospective forced reduction of the regular establishment. Both Secretary Weeks and General Pershing appearing recently before the sub-committee urged that provision be made for an army of 150,000 men and the sub-committee in deciding upon 11,000 as the maximum number of officers has disregarded the recommendation of General Pershing who outlined plans for "weeding out" inefficient officers to bring the force down to 12,000 in the expectation of them increasing the officer personnel to 14,000 by commissioning officers in the junior grades.

A reduction of the army to 115,000 enlisted strength, it was pointed out by department officials, would mean an actual effective force of little more than 105,000 men, as the regular turnover, due to expiring enlistments, recruit training and other conditions, keeps about 10,000 men on the average continuously out of the active ranks.

Work Appointed to Succeed Hays.

Washington.—Dr. Hubert Work, first assistant postmaster general, was nominated by President Harding and confirmed by the senate to be postmaster general. He succeeds Will H. Hays, resigned.

Final announcement of the designation of Dr. Work came as no surprise, his name having been connected with the office since the prospective retirement of Mr. Hays was announced several weeks ago.

The elevation of the Coloradoan to the postmaster generalship will leave the position of first and second assistant postmaster generals to be filled, E. H. Shaughnessy, who was second assistant postmaster general, having lost his life in the Knickerbocker theater disaster.

Seaboard Air Line Seeking Loan.

Washington.—Railroad financing proposals crowded the files of the interstate commerce commission, due to the ending of the period during which carriers are allowed to apply for government loans.

The Seaboard Air Line put in a blanket application under which it notified the commission that it needed large sums of money, the total not being given, but an amount of \$14,000,000 being mentioned as a likely requisite to continue operations and extend its lines.

Norwegian Steamer is Sinking.

Boston.—The Norwegian freight steamer Grontoft was reported sinking about 500 miles southeast of Cape Race in radio messages received here. Her lifeboats had been smashed, the steamer West Kebar reported. The steamer Estonia was proceeding to their assistance.

Reciprocity Act Not to be Revived.

Washington.—William S. Fielding, who came to Washington several days ago in the interest of a general tariff reciprocity agreement between the United States and Canada, has been advised by congressional leaders that congress does not look with favor at this time on such an agreement.

Mr. Fielding has been in conference on the subject with Chairman Fordney of the house ways and means committee, who expressed unalterable opposition to putting into force the 1911 reciprocity act.

GRAVEN COUNTY TO HOLD BIG CAMPAIGN

FOR THE BENEFIT OF AGRICULTURE IN EASTERN CAROLINA.

GOV. MORRISON WILL SPEAK

Craven County Agricultural Committee Names Well-Known Men to Speak in the Campaign.

New Bern.—Having secured Gov. Cameron Morrison as chief speaker of the day, and Dr. B. W. Kilgore and a staff of agricultural specialists for the demonstration work, Secretary C. C. Kirkpatrick, of the Craven agricultural committee, announced that all was in readiness for the launching on March 13 of the most ambitious campaign ever attempted in eastern Carolina for the benefit of agriculture in this section.

Mr. Kirkpatrick stated that there were many details connected with the campaign that were yet to be worked out but in general everything is ready. Starting in New Bern on March 13 with a general mass meeting and conferences with farmers and their wives, the campaign committees will spread out into adjoining counties carrying the Craven idea before hundreds of other farmers during the remainder of the week.

"We have practically secured the transfer of the state's best agricultural specialists to this section for the week of March 13," Mr. Kirkpatrick said in speaking of the immensity of the agricultural movement, "and it will be the privilege of farmers of six counties to hear their expert views on combating the boll weevil and confer with them personally."

On Monday of the campaign week, Governor Morrison and Dr. Kilgore will address a general mass meeting here as the opening gun. During the day farmers will be assembled for conferences with the dairying, hog, and poultry specialists, the state entomologist and others, who may suggest how they may lay the foundation of good live stock which has been announced by authorities as the only sound basis for successful farming under any conditions.

Girl Killed in Auto Wreck.

High Point.—Miss Lena Farrington, 18-year-old daughter of C. L. Farrington, of No. 408 Park street, had her neck broken in an automobile accident here and died two hours later.

W. Francis Everhart, of Thomasville, driver of the car, was arrested on a charge of manslaughter shortly after the accident and detained at police station until afternoon when he was released on a bond of \$3,000, fixed by Magistrate W. G. Brown.

The seven-passenger Studebaker left the pavement at a slight curve in the road to Winston-Salem near the George Penny farm, about two miles from High Point, tore up a concrete abutment or curbstone on the road leading up to the Penny farm, damaged this road and demolished the concrete wall on the other side of the road. The front of the car was badly broken.

Officers Make Big Still Hauls.

Statesville.—A sheet iron still and about 1,000 gallons of beer were destroyed in New Hope township by Probation Officer Halliburton, Deputy Sheriff Hoke and Alexander county officers, Halliburton, Hoke and Deputy Tilley destroyed a complete steam outfit of about 125 gallons capacity, four gallons of whiskey and other accessories in Union Grove township.

Page Will Look After Soldiers.

Lumberton.—A. P. Page of Lumberton has been named secretary of the soldiers' relief for Robeson county, succeeding J. P. Russell, who resigned. D. H. Fuller and I. L. McGill are named as assistants to Mr. Page. Mr. Russell is secretary of the Lumberton chapter of the American Red Cross and town clerk and treasurer and found that he did not have the time to continue looking after the interest of the ex-soldiers and sailors.

Instructing in Recreation Work.

Lumberton.—Miss Frances Haire, representing Community Service, Inc., of New York, is visiting a number of Robeson schools instructing the pupils in recreation work. Miss Haire will spend two weeks in the county. She is working in connection with Miss Louisa Williams, community service director in this county. The work includes community pictures, outdoor exercises, etc. Ten Robeson schools have adopted the community service program.